

# Wishful Thinking...



## UNTIL THIS IS A REALITY,

*please pick up after your pet.*

A message from the City of Arlington  
Public Works and Transportation Dept. - Stormwater Office



# FAQs

**Q: How are stormwater and pet waste related?**

**A:** When pets are allowed to defecate outside, rainwater can carry that waste to the storm drain which leads directly to nearby creeks, lakes, rivers, and streams. Since stormwater is not treated, harmful substances can make their way into our valued water sources. Therefore, pick up your pet's waste and dispose of it by putting it in the trash, flushing it down the toilet, or burying it in your yard.

**Q: Why doesn't the sewage treatment plant clean this water before it reaches the waterway?**

**A:** Sewage Treatment plants only process wastewater from indoor plumbing. Sewage treatment plants do not treat rainwater.

**Q: Other animals such as squirrels, rabbits, and birds already "use the facilities" outdoors. Why should I worry about my pet?**

**A:** The average dog releases 3/4 lb of waste per day, that's 274 lbs per year. North Central Texas is home to approximately 1.2 million dogs, so that's over 900,000 lbs of waste per day! Simply, waste from the number of pets in Arlington cannot be adequately or naturally absorbed into the environment.

**Q: Should I pick up pet waste in my own yard?**

**A:** Yes, absolutely! During a rain storm, this waste can be washed out of your yard, down a street and find its way into the storm sewer system. In addition, when waste is not removed, it leaves a large quantity of nutrients that can burn out grasses by overfeeding them, creating a spotty looking yard. Pet waste can also attract rats—reason enough to keep your yard cleared!



For more information on pet waste and stormwater, please contact the City of Arlington, Stormwater Office at 817-459-6587 or visit [www.arlingtontx.gov/stormwater](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/stormwater)